

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**  
**U.S. Application No. 09/667,301**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

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1. (Amended) A solid multi-piece golf ball comprising a solid core, a mantle of at least one layer enclosing the solid core, and a cover of at least one layer enclosing the mantle, wherein the mantle is made of a material composed primarily of a thermoplastic resin, and has a thickness of up to 1.5 mm,  
the mantle and the solid core have a compression ratio, defined as (compression of mantle)/(compression of solid core), of at least 0.98, the compression being the amount of deformation when subjected to a load of 1,275 N from an initial load of 98 N, and  
the solid core has a surface and a center with a difference in JIS-C hardness therebetween, defined as (surface hardness - center hardness), of at least 5.

**Please add the following new claims:**

8. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the solid core has a diameter of at least 32.0 mm.
- 3  
a 9. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the JIS-C hardness difference between the surface and the center of the solid core is less than 22.
10. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the JIS-C hardness difference between the surface and the center of the solid core is less than 20.
11. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the compression ratio of the mantle and the solid core is less than 1.08.

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12. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the compression ratio of the mantle and the solid core is less than 1.05.

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a 13. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin of the mantle is a thermoplastic elastomer.

14. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the Shore D hardness of the mantle is from 15 to 30.

15. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the Shore D hardness of the mantle is from 25 to 40.

16. (New) The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the mantle has a thickness of up to 1.3 mm.